

HOMICIDE ON CHERRY STREET, ONE SUSPECT IN CUSTODY, NO OTHER SUSPECTS SOUGHT

On March 29, 2017, at about 1:50 in the afternoon, Richard Medina, a 43-year-old male, was stabbed multiple times in the neck and back on the corner of Cherry and Church Streets. He was pronounced dead at UVM Medical Center at about 2:19 PM.

Louis Fortier, a 36 year-old-male, surrendered to police at the scene. Numerous witnesses identified him as Medina's assailant. Video evidence recovered by the police department appears to support these assertions. His charges are pending. A knife was recovered as evidence. The Burlington Police Department is not seeking other suspects at this time. Both men are transients. The encounter does not appear to have been random.

Fortier is believed to have recently travelled to Burlington from Massachusetts. He has an extensive criminal record there that dates back to 1996. It includes arrests for assault with intent to murder, armed bank robbery, assault on a police officer, aggravated assault with a dangerous weapon, felony assault, carrying concealed weapons, receiving stolen vehicles, shoplifting, disorderly conduct, and drinking in public.

Since 2013, the victim, Mr. Medina, has had over 125 involvements with the county's police departments, many of which were in the Church Street Marketplace and on North Street in the Old North End. His involvements were as a person of interest, arrestee or suspect in various assault, trespass, intoxication, disturbance, domestic and mental health calls.

Detective Jamie Morris is handling the investigation for the Burlington Police Department. Anyone who witnessed the attack and has not yet spoken with police is asked to contact him at (802) 540-2254.

